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ARTICLES

OF THE

Norwich Charitable Society,

For the RELIEF of the

SICK and DISTRESSED

BELONGING TO THE

CHAPELS

IN THE

CITY OF NORWICH

AND ITS

NEIGHBOURHOOD.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

ARTICLES

OF THE

CHARITABLE SOCIETY, &c.

ARTICLE I.

THIS ſociety ſhall conſiſt of two Claſſes. The firſt claſs ſhall be call'd BENEFACTORS, or perſons who enter their names from a motive of charity, and who from their circumſtances and ſituation in life, are not likely to receive any pecuniary benefit from the Society. The ſecond claſs ſhall be call'd CONTRIBUTORS, or perſons who engage either from a motive of charity, or with a view of receiving relief, when ſick or in diſtreſs.

II. Every Benefactor ſhall ſubſcribe not leſs than twenty ſhillings per annum, to be paid quarterly, and if any ſhall be above ſix months in arrear, after having been twice applied to for payment, the Committee at the next quarterly or yearly meeting ſhall have power to exclude them from the Society.

III. The

III. The name of each Benefactor with the date and amount of his or her ſubſcription ſhall be enter'd in a book to be kept for that purpoſe by the Treaſurer. The articles of the Society ſhall be affix'd at the door of each Chapel.

IV. Every perſon deſiring to be admitted as a Contributor, ſhall apply to a Committee of the Benefactors at the next quarterly or yearly meeting, and in the intermediate time to the Paſtor of the Chapel to which he or ſhe belongs; and if no reaſonable objection appears, the name and age of ſuch perſons with the day of admiſſion ſhall be enter'd, on his or her ſubſcribing the articles of the Society.

V. Every Contributor being a married or an unmarried man ſhall ſubſcribe one ſhilling per calendar month, to be paid on every firſt Sunday of each month, immediately after prayers in a room belonging to each Chapel, where a perſon ſhall attend to receive and enter the ſame. Catholic women having Proteſtant huſbands, will be allow'd to ſubſcribe one ſhilling per month in lieu of their huſbands, but ſhall not be entitled to receive relief, if the huſbands of ſuch ſubſcribers ſhall be connected with any other purſe or ſociety, at the time they apply for ſuch relief. Benefactors ſhall be call'd upon at their own houſes every three months, except they live in the country, in which caſe they are requeſted to pay or ſend the amount of their ſubſcriptions at the regular times to the Treaſurer.

VI. Every

VI. Every Contributor being a married or an unmarried woman, ſhall ſubſcribe ſixpence per calendar month, to be paid at the time and place mention'd in the foregoing article. But married women ſhall not be entitled to receive relief, whoſe huſbands are connected with any other purſe or ſociety, at the time they apply for ſuch relief.

VII. If any Contributors ſhall neglect paying their ſubſcriptions for two months or upwards, they ſhall have notice thereof in writing from the Committee at the next meeting, and if after ſuch notice the arrears ſhould be ſtill unpaid, the Committee at the enſuing meeting ſhall have power to expel them from the Society.

VIII. If any Contributors ſhall be ſubject to drunkenneſs, ſwearing, or any other ſcandalous irregularity, or ſhall through idleneſs neglect their buſineſs to the prejudice of their families, or ſhall not comply with their Eaſter duties, on proof thereof appearing to the Committee, they ſhall be admoniſh'd, and if after ſuch admonition no amendment ſhould take place, the Committee at the enſuing meeting ſhall have power to expel them from the Society.

IX. No perſon ſhall receive any relief whatever, in leſs time than ſix months after the firſt ſubſcription, nor untill he or ſhe ſhall have been a member of the Society for at leaſt ſix months,

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nor then, unleſs they ſhall have paid their ſubſcription up to the foregoing month.

X. No perſon ſhall be entitled to relief on account of ſickneſs, till he or ſhe have been ill a week, ſo as to be diſabled from working that time, and every one applying for relief in caſe of ſickneſs, ſhall be obliged to produce a certificate from the Paſtor of the Chapel to which he or ſhe belongs.

XI. Every Contributor ſubſcribing one ſhilling per month and complying with the foregoing conditions, ſhall receive when ſick of the Treaſurer eight ſhillings per week for the firſt month, and ſix ſhillings per week for the ſecond and third months, and four ſhillings per week afterwards during the continuance of the illneſs. But every ſuch allowance ſhall no longer be payable than the party in queſtion ſhall be diſabled from working.

XII. Every Contributor ſubſcribing ſixpence per month and complying with the ſaid conditions, ſhall receive when ſick, half the allowance of a ſubſcriber of one ſhilling per month, to be paid at the times and in the manner mention'd in the foregoing article. Except widows having a family, who though ſubſcriing only ſixpence per month, ſhall be entitled to receive in caſe of ſickneſs ſix ſhillings per week for the firſt month, and four ſhillings per week for the ſecond and third months, and three ſhillings per week afterwards, during the continuance

continuance of the illneſs, to be paid as before mention'd.

XIII. No Contributor labouring under any conſiderable infirmity of body, and no one above ſixty years of age ſhall be admitted into this ſociety, but ſuch as have been admitted before that age, and have paid their ſubſcription regularly, ſhall ſtill continue to be members.

XIV. No Contributor ſhall receive relief on any other account but that of ſickneſs, till the fund ſhall amount to the ſum of fifty pounds. But whenever the fund ſhall exceed fifty pounds, the Paſtor of each Chapel ſhall have a diſcretionary power of ordering relief as he ſhall ſee occaſion, on account of any other accidental diſtreſs, provided, that ſuch relief ſhall not exceed five ſhillings per week to ſubſcribers of one ſhilling per month, and two ſhillings and ſixpence per week to ſubſcribers of ſixpence per month. Except widows having a family, who ſhall be entitled in ſuch caſes of accidental diſtreſs to receive relief not exceeding four ſhillings per week.

XV. Every contributor applying for relief in caſes of accidental diſtreſs, ſhall be oblig'd to produce to the Treaſurer a certificate from his or her Paſtor, ſpecifying the ſum, and the cauſe for which it is to be given.

XVI. If any contributor ſhall defraud the Society, by taking relief on a falſe pretence of illneſs, or any other diſtreſs, by wilfully giving

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in a wrong age, or by concealing his or her infirmity when admitted, he or ſhe on proof of the ſame ſhall be ſtruck out of the liſt, and render'd incapable of becoming a member afterwards.

XVII. A ſum not exceeding three pounds ſhall be allowed for the burial of every Contributor of one ſhilling per month, to be paid to his widow, or to his immediate repreſentatives; but in caſe the wife of ſuch Contributor ſhould die firſt, he ſhall then receive twenty ſhillings towards her burial, which ſhall be accounted as part of the three pounds above mentioned, and the ſum of thirty ſhillings ſhall be allowed for the burial of every Contributor of ſixpence per month, provided that ſuch perſons reſpectively ſhall have been members of the Society for a year, or upwards, and have paid their ſubſcription regularly during that time.

XVIII. On the death of every Benefactor who ſhall have ſubſcrib'd and paid ſuch ſubſcription for a year or upwards, Maſs ſhall be ſaid at each Chapel for the repoſe of the ſoul of the deceas'd, at which every Contributor will be requir'd to aſſiſt, unleſs prevented by illneſs, or other good reaſons.

XIX. If any Benefactor ſhall be reduc'd to indigent circumſtances after having ſubſcrib'd and paid his or her beneſaction regularly for the ſpace of ſeven years or upwards, he or ſhe ſhall be entitled without any further contribution to

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the ſame relief in caſes of ſickneſs or accidental diſtreſs as a Contributor ſubſcribing one ſhilling per month.

XX. A Treaſurer ſhall be appointed by the majority of the Benefactors preſent at the firſt meeting, who ſhall keep a regular account of receipts and payments, and be ready to produce at every quarterly or yearly meeting, (if call'd for) the certificates of the Paſtors as vouchers for ſuch payment.

XXI. A Secretary ſhall alſo be appointed at the ſaid meeting to collect the ſubſcriptions, and pay the ſame to the Treaſurer, and to attend the Committees at the quarterly and yearly meetings, and ſuch perſon ſhall be allow'd what the Benefactors ſhall think him entitled to for his trouble.

XXII. Whenever there ſhall remain in the Treaſurer's hands a ſum not leſs than twenty pounds, over and above what may be wanted for current diſburſements, he ſhall place the ſame out at intereſt for the benefit of the Society.

XXIII. Whenever the fund ſhall amount to more than one hundred pounds, the Committee at every quarterly or yearly meeting, ſhall divide the ſurplus of the ſaid ſum not exceeding ten pounds, between the Paſtors belonging to the Chapels in *Norwich*, to be applied at their diſcretion for the relief of the aged and ſuch diſtreſs'd

treſs'd perſons of their reſpective congregations, who are unable to become Contributors.

XXIV. Beſides the yearly meetings hereafter mention'd there ſhall be three quarterly meetings. viz. on the ſunday afternoon ſucceeding *Lady*, *Midſummer* and *Michaelmas*, from four to ſix o'clock, to be held alternately at the houſe belonging to one of the Chapels, at which any number not leſs than five ſhall form a Committee with power to inſpect receipts and diſburſements, to receive or expel Contributing members, and to tranſact the ordinary buſineſs of the Society, but not to elect a new Treaſurer or Secretary, or to make any alteration in the articles. The deciſion of ſuch Committee to be without appeal, provided it be determin'd by a majority.

XXV. The Paſtors ſhall give notice of an annual meeting of the Benefactors to be held on the firſt day of every year, when Maſs will be ſaid at each Chapel for the proſperity of the ſociety in general, and to implore a bleſſing on its ſeveral members in particular. The Treaſurer ſhall lay before the Committee at the ſaid meeting the ſtate of the accompts, which ſhall be affix'd at the door of each Chapel on the *Epiphany*, or the following ſunday. A majority of the Committee at ſuch meeting, not being leſs than nine in number, ſhall (beſides the buſineſs of the quarterly Committees) have power to elect a new Treaſurer or Secretary, but not to make any alteration in the articles, unleſs there ſhall

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be fifteen or more preſent, and ſuch alteration to be approv'd of by at leaſt two thirds of them. But in caſe the number of Benefactors ſhould be under twenty, one half of them ſhall be deem'd a ſufficient Committee to elect a Treaſurer or Secretary, and two thirds to make any alteration in the articles.

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